

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 6, 9-11, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22-28 have been cancelled and new claims 29-32 have been added so that claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12-14, 17, 18, 21 and 29-32 are now in the application. New claims 29-32 read upon Applicant's elected species.

The Examiner indicated the allowability of claim 23 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The limitation from claim 23 has been incorporated into parent claim 21 so that claim 21 now includes all of the limitations of claim 23. Claim 21 should now be in condition for allowance. Claim 21 was further amended, however, to delete the phrase "and interfacing" in line 27 since the first layer 252 in either of Figs. 12 or 13 does not interface the spacer layer 200.

New claims 29-32 depend from allowable claim 21. New claim 29 recites the structure of the CCP sensor, claim 30 recites additional structure of the read head, claim 31 recites the first layer 205 in Fig. 12 as also interfacing the free layer structure 203 and claim 32 recites the first layer 252 also interfacing the pinned layer structure 210.

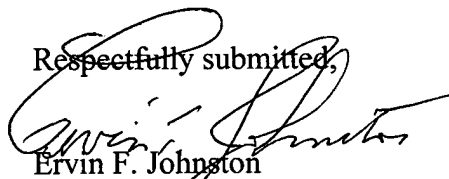
Independent claims 1, 12 and 17 have been amended to recite:

"the cap layer structure being composed of a first layer of tantalum (Ta) and a second layer of ruthenium (Ru)."

Since these claims are patterned after allowable claim 21 they should likewise be in condition for allowance. Claims dependent upon independent claims 1, 12 and 17 should also be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this document she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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